

REMARKS

Claims 18-29 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-17 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing the cancelled subject matter in continuation or divisional patent applications. New claims 18-29 have been added for substantive examination. The specification has been amended. The replacement drawings filed on March 24, 2004 have been approved.

SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to for various informalities. Applicant has attempted to overcome the informalities by providing replacement paragraphs 23 and 25 as well as canceling claims 2 and 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by one or more of Saurman et al., Nakajima et al., Hagemeister et al., Houghton, Wier, Berg, Sparling, Crescio and Hart.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-17 and provides new claims 18-29 for substantive examination. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references cited by the Examiner anticipate new claims 18-24. Specifically, claims 18-24 are related to a propshaft assembly operable to transmit torque between a first rotary member and a second rotary member. The propshaft includes a cylindrical tube having first and second ends, a first cap coupled to the first end of the tube where the first cap

is adapted to be drivingly coupled to the first rotary member. A second cap is coupled to a second end of the tube. The second cap is adapted to be drivingly coupled to the second rotary member. The propshaft assembly also includes a tubular insert member positioned within the tube between the first and second ends. The insert member has a first end, a second end and an outer cylindrical surface. The outer cylindrical surface engages an inner surface of the tube. The insert member includes first and second slots radially extending through the tube. The first slot axially extends from the first end of the insert member a distance greater than half the length of the insert member. The second slot axially extends from the second end of the insert member a distance greater than half the length of the insert member. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references cited either solely or in combination with one another disclose, teach or suggest a propshaft assembly as defined by the presently pending claims.

Applicant also contends that new claims 25-29 are novel. In particular, claims 25-29 call for a propshaft assembly operable to transmit torque between a first rotary member and a second rotary member. The propshaft includes a cylindrical tube having first and second ends and a tubular insert positioned within the tube between the first and second ends. The insert member is elastically deformable to define a reduced size to allow insertion of the insert member within the tube. The insert member includes first and second slots radially extending therethrough where the first slot axially extends from the first end of the insert member and the second slot axially extends from the second end of the insert member. Applicant respectfully submits that a propshaft assembly as defined by claims 25-29 is not disclosed by any of the references cited by

the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 102 rejections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saurman. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable any one of Nakajima et al; Hagemeister et al; Houghton; Wier; Berg; Sparling; Crescio and Hahn.

Applicant has cancelled claims 3, 5 and 9. Applicant has submitted new claims 18-28 for substantive examination. Applicant respectfully relies on the amendments and arguments previously described in relation to the § 102 rejections. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the § 103 rejections.

CONCLUSION

All of the grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding office action.

If it is believed that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600. Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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